

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An espresso coffee machine for a low-voltage vehicle, the machine comprising a water tank, a pump, a heating element, a brewing head wherein the water tank is fluidly connected to a pump for pumping water from the tank to a heating element positioned after said pump, the heating element which is itself fluidly connected to a brewing head in which a cartridge of coffee is brewed, a moveable closure for closing the head comprising a mechanism for moving the closure from an open position to a closed position and vice versa and a coffee dispensing pipe associated with the closure to provide an outlet for brewed coffee, and a connection for engaging a low voltage electric power supply, wherein the heating of the heating element is switched off or works at reduced power when the pump is running and power is reduced in that the heating element operates only on demand when a beverage is to be dispensed and stops heating when the required temperature is reached.

Claim 2 (original): The coffee machine according to claim 1, wherein the mechanism for moving the closure is a sliding system and a controller is provided for switching off or reducing the heating of the heating element.

Claim 3 (original): The coffee machine according to claim 1, wherein the mechanism for moving the closure is a jaw system and a controller is provided for switching off or reducing the heating of the heating element.

Claim 4 (original): The coffee machine according to claim 1, wherein the heating element is configured and dimensioned to retain an amount of water therein which is sufficient to dispense a single espresso beverage, and the machine is configured and dimensioned to be filled, operated and emptied by one hand.

Claim 5 (original): The coffee machine according to claim 1, further comprising a storage part for unused cartridges and a storage part for used cartridges.

Claim 6 (original): The coffee machine according to claim 1, further comprising a receptacle for holding stacked containers directly beneath the outlet for the brewed coffee.

Claims 7-10 (canceled):

Claim 11 (previously presented): The espresso coffee machine of claim 1, in which machine the brewing head comprises a ring to allow manual ejection of used cartridges.

Claim 12 (original): The coffee machine according to claim 11, further comprising a controller is provided for switching off or reducing the heating of the heating element, and wherein the heating element is configured and dimensioned to retain an amount of water therein which is sufficient to dispense a single espresso beverage, and the machine is configured and dimensioned to be filled, operated and emptied by one hand.

Claim 13 (original): The coffee machine according to claim 11, further comprising a storage part for unused cartridges and a storage part for used cartridges.

Claim 14 (original): The coffee machine according to claim 11, further comprising a receptacle for holding stacked containers directly beneath the outlet for the brewed coffee.

Claims 15-16 (canceled):

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A method for preparing an espresso coffee of uniform quality in a low-voltage vehicle, in which the following steps are followed using a device for preparing an espresso coffee:

- a heating element is heated,
- the heating of the element is switched off or reduced,
- the water is pumped through the element,
- a cartridge of coffee is brewed with the heated water from the element, and
- the brewed coffee is collected in a container.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of claim 17, wherein the heating element is configured and dimensioned to retain an amount of water therein which is sufficient to dispense a single espresso beverage so that it can be switched off or reduced by a controller while the water is being pumped through the element.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): A method for preparing an espresso coffee of uniform quality in a low-voltage vehicle, using a device for preparing an espresso coffee by pumping hot water through the device at a controlled temperature and pressure.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A method for preparing an espresso coffee of uniform quality in a low-voltage vehicle using a device for preparing an espresso coffee, in which method the coffee is delivered through the device into a container in a secure manner.

Claim 21 (currently amended): An espresso coffee machine comprising a water tank connected to a pump for pumping the water from the tank to a heating element positioned after said pump, the heating element which is itself connected to a brewing head in which a cartridge of coffee is brewed, a moveable closure with a mechanism for moving the closure from an open position to a closed position and vice versa, a coffee dispensing pipe associated with the closure, and a storage part for unused cartridges and a storage part for used cartridges, in which machine the mechanism for closing the head is a sliding or jaw system, and the machine being connected to a low voltage electric power supply, wherein the heating of the heating element is switched off or works at reduced power when the pump is running and wherein a controller is provided for operating the heating element on demand when a beverage is to be dispensed and stops heating when the required temperature is reached and for switching off or reducing the heating of the heating element, and the heating element is configured and dimensioned to retain an amount of water therein which is sufficient to dispense a single espresso beverage.

Claim 22 (currently amended): An espresso coffee machine comprising a water tank connected to a pump for pumping the water from the tank to a heating element positioned after said pump, the heating element which is itself connected to a brewing head in which a cartridge of coffee is brewed, a moveable closure with a mechanism for moving the closure from an open position to a closed position and vice versa, a coffee dispensing pipe associated with the closure, and a receptacle for holding stacked containers directly beneath an outlet for the brewed coffee, in which machine the mechanism for closing the head is a sliding or jaw system, and the machine being connected to a low voltage electric power supply, wherein the heating of the heating element is switched off or works at reduced power when the pump is running and wherein a controller is provided for operating the heating element on demand when a beverage is to be dispensed and stops heating when the required temperature is reached and for switching off or reducing the heating of the heating element, and the heating element is configured and dimensioned to retain an amount of water therein which is sufficient to dispense a single espresso beverage.

Claim 23 (currently amended): An espresso coffee machine comprising a water tank connected to a pump for pumping the water to a heating element, which is itself connected to a brewing head in which a cartridge of coffee is brewed, a moveable closure with a mechanism for moving the closure from an open position to a closed position and vice versa, a coffee dispensing pipe on the closure, in which machine the brewing head comprises a ring to allow manual ejection of used cartridges, the machine being connected to an electric power supply, and a storage part for unused cartridges and a storage part for used cartridges, wherein the heating of the heating element is switched off or works at reduced power when the pump is running.

Claim 24 (currently amended): An espresso coffee machine comprising a water tank connected to a pump for pumping the water to a heating element, which is itself connected to a brewing head in which a cartridge of coffee is brewed, a moveable closure with a mechanism for moving the closure from an open position to a closed position and vice versa, a coffee dispensing pipe on the closure, in which machine the brewing head comprises a ring to allow manual ejection of used cartridges, the machine being connected to an electric power supply, and a receptacle for holding stacked containers directly beneath an outlet for the brewed coffee, wherein the heating of the heating element is switched off or works at reduced power when the pump is running.